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17 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Intelligence Medal

1. In connection with the proposed Intelligence Medal, the following historical note may be of interest.

2. As you know, the Purple Heart was established by General Washington in 1782 apparently without statutory authority. While the revived Purple Heart has been given for wounds in war, this original Purple Heart was called the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known as the Badge of Military Merit. According to the introduction of a recent book called The Road to Glory by Arthur R. Thompson, the first two were awarded for bravery and leadership. The third Purple Heart went to a Sergeant Bissell as of June 8, 1783 and rewarded a very different kind of service performed through many months inconspicuously and in secret. The citation begins by stating: "It hath ever been an established maxim in the American Service that the Road to Glory was open to all." The road of Daniel Bissell, American spy, led through extremes of peril, self-sacrifice, and the shadows of disgrace.

/s/ LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel